PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

To:

BAHNG Hae Cheol
KBK & ASSOCIATES
15 th Floor Yosam Building 648-23,
Yeoksam-dong, Kangnam-gu,
Seoul, 135-080
Republic of Korea

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing *(day/month/year)*	13 January 2006 (13.01.2006)
Applicant's or agent's file reference: AZ05-273WOWW	FOR FURTHER ACTION: See paragraph 2 below
International application No.: PCT/KR 2005/003475	International filing date *(day/month/year)*: 19 October 2005 (19.10.2005)
	Priority Date *(day/month/year)*: 21 October 2004 (21.10.2004)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC: D06F 35/00 (2006.01), D06F 39/08 (2006.01)	
Applicant: LG ELECTRONICS INC.	

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- [x] Cont. No. I — Basis of the opinion
- [ ] Cont. No. II — Priority
- [ ] Cont. No. III — Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- [ ] Cont. No. IV — Lack of unity of invention
- [x] Cont. No. V — Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- [ ] Cont. No. VI — Certain documents cited
- [ ] Cont. No. VII — Certain defects in the international application
- [ ] Cont. No. VIII — Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ AT **Austrian Patent Office** Dresdner Straße 87, A-1200 Vienna	Authorized officer WININGER B.
Facsimile No. +43 / 1 / 534 24 / 535	Telephone No. +43 / 1 / 534 24 / 460

Form PCT/ISA/237 (cover sheet) (January 2004)

Continuation No. I

Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed.

Continuation No. V

Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims **1-17**	**YES**
	Claims **----**	**NO**
Inventive step (IS)	Claims **----**	**YES**
	Claims **1-17**	**NO**
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims **1-17**	**YES**
	Claims **----**	**NO**

2. Citations and explanations:

Document US 5 507 053 A (D1) shows a method of operating a washing machine where in step 226, water is added to the wash basket 36 in combination with detergent. After the introduction of wash liquid into the tub 34, recirculation of the wash liquid from the sump 72 through the recirculation line 74 and nozzle 78 over the clothes 200 is initiated by energizing the pump 38. During initial recirculation, the wash basket 34 begins a low speed spin. The low speed rotation moves the entire load of clothes repeatedly under the spray of wash liquid dispensed from the spray nozzle 78 such that all of the clothes are thoroughly wetted. After a predetermined time a low speed spin of the wash basket is recommenced while recirculating the wash liquid over the clothes load 200 through nozzle 78, as shown in step 230. If, as a result of additional absorption of wash liquid by the clothes items 200, additional wash liquid is required, additional water may be added until pressure sensor 73 is satisfied. Step 230 may be repeated any number of predetermined times, as shown by loop 234, to ensure thorough wetting of the wash items 200.

Fig. 7 of document EP 1 375 728 A1 (D2) includes a method where when the start key 36 is pressed the load or the amount of laundry loaded in the washing/dehydration tub 5 is detected prior to the supply of water (Step S1). More specifically, the pulsator 7 is rotated for a short period of time, and the load is determined on the basis of a period during which the consequent inertial rotation continues. The method shown in figures 8, 9 starts with the supply of tap water (S12). The water is supplied to a predetermined washing water level (S13). The pulsator 7 is rotated at a predetermined speed in one direction or in opposite directions to

generate water streams in the outer tub 2 (S15). When the amount of water reaches the washing water level, the water supply is stopped (S16, S17).

By reason that both documents D1 and D2 include methods for controlling a washing machine the skilled person would therefore regard it as a normal design option to combine the features (e.g. circulating the washing water) of document D1 and the features of document D2 (e.g. detecting load, determine laundry amount) to solve the problem posed. Hence, the features of claims 1-17 are shown in combination of documents D1 and D2. The subject-matters of claims 1-17 do not involve an inventive step.

In summary it can be ascertained that the subject-matter of claims 1-17 are new but do not involves an inventive step.

Industrial applicability is given.